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Shuttles in varying stages of processing for launches



◆ Shuttle Update:

While **Endeavour** is on the pad being prepared for launch March 11, the other two shuttles are also being processed

for their future respective launches. In OPF bay 3, midbody bay closeout is under way on **Discovery** and engine 2 is being installed. Scheduled work includes installing the radiator retract box and hose.

In bay 1, **Atlantis** is undergoing reinforced carbon-carbon thermography and forward reaction control system hypersonic testing.

◆ 2008 KSC All-American Picnic Goes "Green" —

For the first time, food and refreshments at Kennedy's All-American Picnic will be served in completely biodegradable and compostable plates, bowls and cups in an effort to reduce waste at the event by 95 to 99 percent. Recycling stations will be located throughout the park. After the picnic, a mobile recycling unit from Somat Waste Reduction Technology will be on site to shred all of the waste material at no cost. Then, through an agreement with Walt Disney World, Kennedy will transport the

compostable shredded garbage to Disney's composting facility where it will be put through a composting process and turned into soil for use in the parks.

The All-American Picnic will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 29 at the Kennedy Athletic, Recreation and Social (KARS) Park I. All Kennedy employees and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Patrick Air Force Base personnel associated with a NASA program are invited to attend. Tickets will go on sale March 17 at a cost of \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3 through 12. Children under age 3 may attend free.

The 2008 KSC All-American Picnic Web site is now live at <http://kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/>.

■ **KEA Initiates Mentoring Program** — The Kennedy Engineering Academy, called KEA, continually strives to share knowledge pertinent to the NASA and contractor technological and engineering community at Kennedy. As part of its ongoing efforts to make the academy a valuable institution, KEA is establishing a KEA Mentoring Program. Mentoring typically includes one senior individual providing professional and social development to a junior protégé.

All-American Picnic will be environmentally friendly

This program will assist protégés as well as mentors in their professional growth.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor and sharing your expertise through a one-on-one relationship with a junior employee, or if you are a junior employee interested in receiving guidance from a seasoned employee, please e-mail your name, company, phone number and your desire to be either a mentor or protégé to ksc-engineering-academy@mail.nasa.gov. Someone will get back to you with a few additional questions to allow for effective pairings.

This program is open to all NASA and contractor employees. If you have any questions, please contact Gisele Altman, 867-4000.

■ **Powered By NASA** — A new story will be published this month on the NASA Web site **InsideNASA** under the "Deputy's Corner" at <http://insidenasa.nasa.gov/portal/site/insidenasa>. The story is on the Water Security Corporation. There will also be an RSS feed for it.

■ **Reminder** — Applications for CampKSC scholarships for girls are due March 15. Details are available at www.swe-sc.org/CampKSC. Contact Judy Kersey at judy.kersey@swe.org if you have questions.

Did You Know? If you know a high school student, age 16 and over, who is interested in earning Bright Futures Scholarship points, the 2008 All-American Picnic will be a good source as well as a great opportunity to help out for a couple of hours or possibly all day! If the student is interested in covering a four-hour slot, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., please let the coordination team know. The team is working with the schools so the students are able to receive double credit hours for their service and the picnic coordinators will be equally appreciative! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact volunteer coordination team members Elizabeth Vasquez at 867-8251, Frances (Sandy) Walsh at 867-4255 or Sam Talluto at 867-3092.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jbsc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.